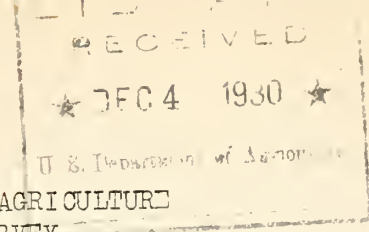


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BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

ANTIDOTES FOR USE IN CASE OF ACCIDENTAL POISONING WITH STRYCHNINE.

In field operations special precaution must be taken at all times to prevent accidental poisoning. Antidotes for strychnine should be included among camp supplies for prompt treatment.

Human beings.--Use an emetic of mustard followed by large draughts of warm water, and give powdered charcoal. Keep patient in a quiet place, avoiding noise, quick movements, or anything which may startle or disturb. To relieve spasms let patient inhale pure chloroform, or give chloral hydrate (25 grains). A physician should be called with the utmost promptness.

Dogs.--Salt or strong brine in large doses is usually effectual in the case of dogs, as it retards the assimilation of strychnine and acts both as an emetic and a physic. An emetic dose would be about one tablespoonful of salt. Emetics should always be given early before absorption of strychnine has occurred, otherwise they may do more harm than good. After the animal has vomited, give 15 to 40 grains of chloral hydrate (depending on the size of the dog) in one-half pint of water.

Horses.--If a horse is found in the act of eating strychnined grain, seize the tongue and clean out the mouth and throat thoroughly. Drench the horse as quickly as possible with one ounce of chloral hydrate, or of potassium bromide, in one quart of water, and repeat with half of this dose after half an hour. Horses so treated become "dopey" and may lie down to sleep. Poisoned animals should not be suddenly alarmed, as this may bring on convulsions.

If the horse has taken a large quantity of the poison, drench with one-fourth to one-half ounce of tannic acid in one quart of water before administering the chloral hydrate or potassium bromide. Chloral hydrate may be given as an injection in the rectum in a mucilaginous solution made of seven grams of gum arabic and half a pint of water. Tannic acid treatment should be followed, after danger has passed, with a dose of linseed oil or Glauber salts, to overcome the constipating effect.

Use of green tea.--Throw one pound of green tea into one quart of boiling water; stir well and add two quarts of cold water. The tea will practically absorb all of the hot water, but a tannic acid solution will be derived by the addition of the cold water. This solution will contain about 1.6 ounces of tannic acid, which is sufficient to act as an antidote for a horse or other animal of similar size which may have been accidentally poisoned by eating strychnine.

